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Message Text

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PAGE 01 SOFIA 01801 241201Z

44
ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /016 W
---------- 102988
R 241036Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1653
INFO USIA WASHDC

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FOR CU/EE, CU/IVP; USIA FOR IEU

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: OEXC, BU (ALEXANDROV, EMIL)
SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL VISITOR

REF: STATE 206186

1. P&C OFFICER DISCUSSED WITH EMIL ALEXANDROV (MEMBER OF EXEC BUREAU OF COMMITTEE FOR ART AND CULTURE, AND CHIEF OF DIRECTORATE FOR CULTURAL RELATIONS WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES), HIS UPCOMING VISIT TO DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY TO PARTICIPATE IN "SYMPOSIUM OF FOLK ARTS IN BULGARIA," OCTOBER 28-30, 1976.

2. POSSIBILITY OF PARTIAL IV GRANT WAS SUGGESTED AND ALEXANDROV EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR BEING CONSIDERED. ACCORDINGLY EMBASSY NOMINATES ALEXANDROV FOR PARTIAL GRANT TO COVER PERIOD OCTOBER 30 - NOVEMBER 5, 1976.

3. ALEXANDROV IS CURRENTLY ON VACATION AND REMAINING QUESTIONS RAISED BY REFTEL WILL BE ANSWERED UPON HIS RETURN EARLY SEPTEMBER. HE PLANS TO ARRIVE U.S. O/A OCTOBER 26 AND REMAIN IN PITTSBURGH UNTIL END OF SYMPOSIUM, OCTOBER 30. HIS GRANT CAN BEGIN OCTOBER 30 AS HE DEPARTS PITTSBURGH FOR WASHINGTON (WITH AMBASSADOR POPOV), THEN VISITS NYC, SPECIFICALLY METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART WHERE THRACIAN ART WILL BE EXHIBITED. GRANT WOULD HAVE TO END NOVEMBER 5 SINCE ALEXANDROV
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HAS ENGAGEMENTS IN CANADA ON THAT DATE.

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4. ALEXANDROV'S ONE SPECIFIC REQUEST WAS TO MEET INFORMALLY WITH JOURNALISTS "TO ACQUAINT THEM WITH BULGARIAN CULTURE AND RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES." PERHAPS A SESSION CAN BE ARRANGED WITH ART CRITICS IN WASHINGTON OR NEW YORK.

5. ALEXANDROV SPEAKS NO ENGLISH BUT HAS SOME (HEAVILY ACCENTED) FRENCH. HE WOULD NEED INTERPRETER-ESCORT. BULGARIAN EMBASSY CULTURAL ATTACHE IS LIKELY TO BE ASSIGNED TO TRAVEL WITH HIM AS WELL.

6. COMMENT: THIS WILL BE ALEXANDROV'S FIRST VISIT TO U.S., A PROSPECT ABOUT WHICH HE SEEMED GENUINELY EXCITED. HIS POSITION ON COMMITTEE IS IMPORTANT FOR U.S. CULTURAL PROGRAMMING IN BULGARIA AND EMBASSY URGES HIS NOMINATION FOR PARTIAL GRANT DESPITE VERY LIMITED DURATION OF STAY. FULLER PROGRAMMING SUGGESTIONS WILL BE SENT AFTER DISCUSSION WITH ALEXANDROV IN SEPTEMBER.
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